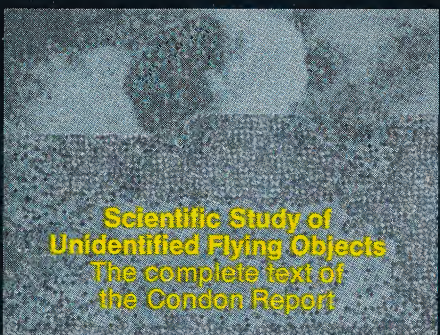
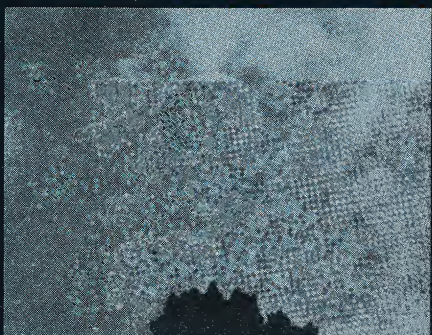
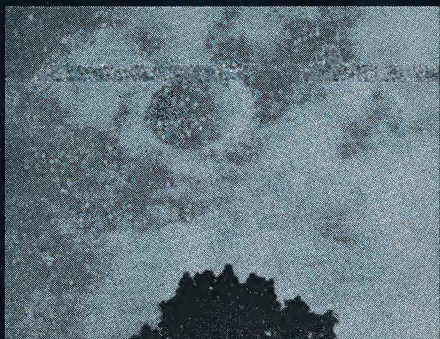
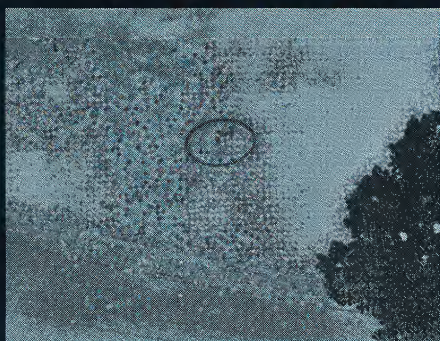
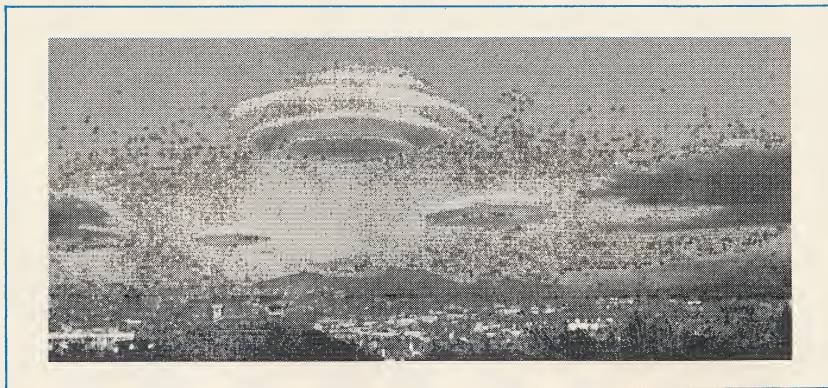






Photographed in Brazil, this lenticular cloud could be mistaken for a UFO.

In 1966, the U.S. Air Force decided to establish a project for the scientific study of unidentified flying objects (universally known as UFOs). Official interest in UFOs, or "flying saucers" as they were first called, dates from June 1947. On the twenty-fourth of that month, Kenneth Arnold, a business man from Boise, Idaho, was flying a private airplane near Mt. Rainier, Washington. He reported seeing a group of objects flying along in a line which he described as looking "like pie plates skipping over the water."

Soon reports of flying saucers began to come in from all parts of the country and eventually from all over the world. The United States government took notice of these reports because the UFOs might represent a threat to national security and began an investigation dubbed "Project Sign." As reports of UFOs continued to be received, in 1949 a new investigation was mounted, "Project Grudge"—a name hardly calculated to inspire confidence in its unbiased objectives among believers in UFOs. In 1952, "Project Grudge" gave way to "Project Blue Book," which is still in existence. Unfortunately, the policy of the Air Force in delaying the release to the public of the results of these investigations added much fuel to the charges that UFOs were indeed real and that this fact was being suppressed.

When Dr. Edward U. Condon and the University of Colorado accepted the assignment to make a thorough study of the UFO phenomenon, it was with the understanding that the emphasis would be on attempting to learn from UFO reports anything that could be considered as adding to scientific knowledge.

Several years and a half million dollars later, Dr. Condon and his associates produced their report entitled **SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS**—a whopping big, 965-page leviathan of a book documenting in elaborate detail every aspect of the exhaustive investigations carried out by the University of Colorado team. Fifty-nine case studies are reproduced, with testimony of witnesses, laboratory studies and reports, photographs, and photogrammetric measurements. Where there was evidence of fakery, the investigators cleverly reproduced the effects achieved. (It is surprising how much a Leica

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Alternate Selection:

Final Report of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Dr. Edward U. Condon
University of Colorado, Project Director

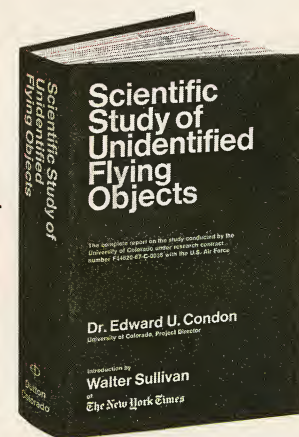
Introduction by Walter Sullivan
Science Editor of *The New York Times*

967 pages, including 32 pages of photographs, plus many charts, tables, diagrams, and appendices

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SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, Alternate Selection, may be ordered in addition to or instead of the Main Selection.

lens cap looks like a flying saucer when it is suspended from a thread and photographed at a distance.) And readers will be struck by the surprising fallibility of such sober observers as police officers, airline pilots, and radar observers.

Although Dr. Condon and his associates found plausible explanations for most of the UFOs and conclude that "nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge," several extensively documented cases defied explanation.

Two of these involved radar targets that chased aircraft in Britain and the United States. Another consists of two photographs of a disk-like object moving across the sky taken by an Oregon farmer with a reputation for unquestionable veracity.

One of the most puzzling sightings occurred at Lakenheath Air Base in England in 1956. The base is used by both the U.S. Air Force and the R.A.F.

Radar operators on the ground detected one or more targets that seemed to be moving at speeds as great as 2,000 or 4,000 miles per hour, although no sonic boom was heard. The targets made right-angle turns at a few hundred miles per hour. Two R.A.F. fighters were sent up, and one pilot reported he had obtained a radar "gunlock" on the target.

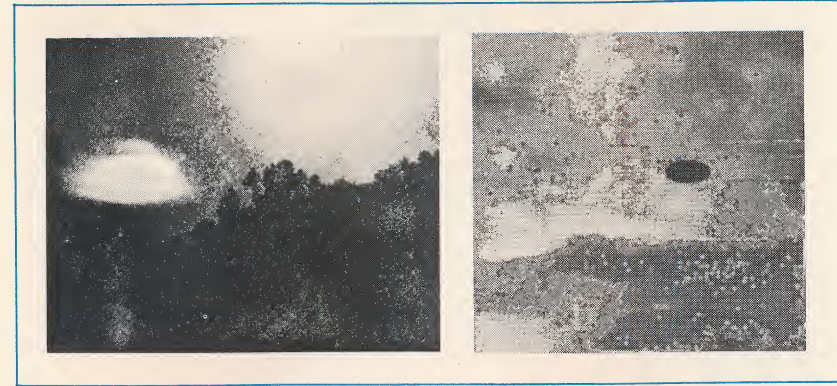
However, the UFO circled the fighter's tail and remained there despite the pilot's evasive action. The plane ran low on fuel and landed; ground personnel reported seeing one or more white, rapidly moving objects.

"Although conventional or natural explanations (such as abnormal radar propagation) cannot be ruled out," says the SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, "the probability of such seems low in this case and the probability that at least one genuine UFO was involved appears to be fairly high."



Photograph made at Santa Ana, California, in 1965 from an Orange County Road Department truck.

A Leica lens cap suspended on a fine thread a few inches outside the truck window.



Photograph of a bright disc reported as a UFO in 1965.

First photo of a UFO observed in Oregon in 1967 (© Kenneth Baker 1967)

In a more recent incident, on May 13, 1967, traffic control radar detected a UFO following a Braniff Airlines flight into the Colorado Springs airport. The "blip" on the radar screen pulled to the right as the airliner came down and it passed over the airport at an indicated height of some 200 feet—standard procedure for an overtaking plane.

Yet those in the control tower could see nothing, nor could the crew of a Continental Airlines flight three or four miles behind the UFO. Investigator Gordon D. Thayer writes in the SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, "This must remain as one of the most puzzling radar cases on record and no conclusion is possible at this time."

Nevertheless, Dr. Condon and his associates point out that a few such puzzling episodes do not justify the conclusion that the Earth is being visited by the spacecraft of an extra-terrestrial civilization. Despite the overwhelming evidence that most sightings upon investigation prove to be unreliable or to have a natural explanation, a sizeable section of the public persists in the belief that UFOs represent such visitations.

Why? Long before Barnum, philosophers commented on the curious paradox that the world seems to *want* to be deceived. Unquestionably a certain amount of intellectual damage is done by such gullibility. Bertrand Russell has suggested that one should not accept anything for which there is no rational evidence; among other evils it makes systematic deception, such as that practiced by advertisers on consumers or governments on the governed, all too easy.

One of the conclusions of the SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS is that "children may be harmed by absorbing unsound and erroneous material as if it were scientifically well founded." (See boxed excerpt.) If this fascinating book does little more than to cut down the subjection of children to what has been called "science pornography," it will have performed a public service of substantial proportions.

"Direct, convincing and unequivocal evidence of the truth of ETA (extra-terrestrial actuality) would be the greatest single scientific discovery in the history of mankind. Going beyond its interest for science, it would undoubtedly have consequences of surpassing significance for every phase of human life. Some persons who have written speculatively on this subject, profess to believe that the supposed extra-terrestrial visitors come with beneficent motives, to help humanity clean up the terrible mess that it has made. Others say that they believe that the visitors are hostile. Whether their coming would be favorable or unfavorable to mankind, it is almost certain that they would make great changes in the condition of human existence.

"It is characteristic of most reports of actual visitors from outer space that there is no corroborating witness to the alleged incident, so that the story must be accepted, if at all, solely on the basis of belief in the veracity of the one person who claims to have had the experience. In the cases which we studied, there was only one in which the observer claimed to have had contact with a visitor from outer space. On the basis of our experience with that one, and our own unwillingness to believe the literal truth of the Villas-Boas incident, or the one from Truckee, California, reported by Prof. James Harder, we found that no direct evidence whatever of a convincing nature now exists for the claim that any UFOs represent spacecraft visiting Earth from another civilization."

*—from SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS*

"The subject of UFO's has been widely misrepresented to the public by a small number of individuals who have given sensationalized presentations in writings and public lectures. So far as we can judge, not many people have been misled by such irresponsible behavior, but whatever effect there has been has been bad.

"A related problem to which we wish to direct public attention is the miseducation in our schools which arises from the fact that many children are being allowed, if not actively encouraged to devote their science study time to the reading of UFO books and magazine articles of the type referred to in the preceding paragraph. We feel that children are educationally harmed by absorbing unsound and erroneous material as if it were scientifically well founded. Such study is harmful not merely because of the erroneous nature of the material itself, but also because such study retards the development of a critical faculty with regard to scientific evidence, which to some degree ought to be part of the education of every American.

"Therefore we strongly recommend that teachers refrain from giving students credit for school work based on their reading of the presently available UFO books and magazine articles. Teachers who find their students strongly motivated in this direction should attempt to channel their interests in the direction of serious study of astronomy and meteorology, and in the direction of critical analysis of arguments for fantastic propositions that are being supported by appeals to fallacious reasoning or false data.

*—from SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS*